THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The construction of an airport at Vagaikulam in Chidambaranar District has commenced from the 16th of January, 1990.

(c) No, Sir.

Control of rabies

1562. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 30,000 people in the country die every year due to rabies;

(b) whether this can be attributed to the large number of stray dogs in the country;

(c) if so, what effective steps at national level are being taken to combat the menace;

(d) whether Government propose to administer anti-rabies vaccines free of cost to the people in the country as a preventive measure; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, what alternative steps Government propose to take combat this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Although no exact figures of the incidence of rabies are available, it is estimated that nearly 25,000 deaths occur in the country due to rabies every year out of which 96 per cent are due to dog bits including stray dogs.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture has launched a National Cenine Rabies Control Programme during VI Five Year Plan. Under this programme 30 rabies control units have been set up in different States to supplement the control activities undertaken by State Governments and local civic bodies.

(d) The anti rabies vaccine nervous tissue vaccine) is provided free of cost in Government Hospitals.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Ophthalmic Centres

1563. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to effect improvement in the ophthalmic facilities at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi and raise it to the level of facilities available in SAARC countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(c) whether there are some more ophthalmic centres in the country;

(d) if so, what are the Statewise details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to set up ophthalmic centres in Uttar Pradesh also of the level of Dr. Rjaendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences for the convenience of local patients; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi is a premier Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences at the National level. No information about the status of ophthalmic facilities available in SAARC countries is available with us. Under National Programme for Control of Blindness a sum of Rs. 3.57 crores had been provided to the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for construction of building and also for the purchase of sophisticated ophthalmic equipments. Besides Rs. 12 lakhs is proposed to be given to Dr. R. P. Centre during 1989-90 for establishing a Central Ophthalmic Instrument repair workshop.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To cater to the needs of the people of different zones, following Regional

Institutes of Ophthalmology have been developed under the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

1. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh.
2. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
3. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Calcutta, West Bengal.
4. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
5. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Gauhati, Assam.
6. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Madras, Tamil Nadu.
7. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Bangalore, Karnataka.
8. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Patna, Bihar.
9. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

(e) and (f) Regional Institute of Ophthalmology at Sitapur is catering to the needs of the people of Uttar Pradesh where the Ophthalmic care facilities are augmented in a phased manner.

Improvement in Passenger amenities at Indira Gandhi International Airport

1564. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Airports Authority of India has taken several new initiatives to provide passenger amenities at Indira Gandhi International Airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last one year, some of the major facilities introduced at IGI Airport, Delhi are modification and expansion of Airbus Terminal, free coach service between the terminals, provision of STD/ISD and free local telephone facilities, increase in number of self-help baggage trolleys, provision of coffee vending machine in the domestic security hold area, creation of a VIP parking area in front of domestic terminal, change in the layout of immigration counters, provision of a canopy outside the Domestic Terminal, improvement in public utility services etc.

देश में रसोई गैस की एजेन्सियां

1565. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय देश में रसोई गैस की एजेंसियों की कुल संख्या कितनी है; और

(ख) उनके राज्य-वार नाम तथा पते क्या-क्या हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (श्री एम. एस. गुरुपादस्वामी): (क) 1 मार्च, 1990 को देश में 3744 एल०पी०जी० डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप कार्य कर रही थीं।

(ख) सभी 3744 डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपों के राज्यवार नाम और पते संबंधी आंकड़े उपलब्ध कराने में निहित प्रयास वांछित उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के अनुरूप नहीं होंगे।

Involvement of officers for identification of drugs

1566. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2452 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that there was connivance between one of the former Development Commissioner and member convenor of the Committee regarding identification of drugs for price control;